

Question on Notice

No. 831

Asked on Thursday, 18 August 2022

MR T WATTS ASKED THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITIES AND HOUSING, MINISTER FOR DIGITAL ECONOMY AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to social housing in the Toowoomba North Electorate—

Will the Minister advise how many houses the government is building for social housing (a) that are currently in the planning and design phase, (b) that are currently in the construction phase and (c) will have tenants in them by the 24th of October 2024?

ANSWER:

Since 1 July 2015, there have been 4,909 commencements and 3,985 new homes delivered in Queensland. This includes 135 commencements and 110 new homes delivered in the Darling Downs; and 54 commencements and 32 new homes delivered in the Toowoomba North Electorate (as at 16 September 2022).

QuickStarts Qld will see 100 new social homes commenced in Darling Downs (which includes the Toowoomba North Electorate) by 30 June 2025, through a planned investment of \$32.5 million, supporting more than 102 full-time equivalent jobs.

This is in addition to the 70 new social homes that are already commenced under the First Action Plan of the *Queensland Housing Strategy 2017–2027* in the Darling Downs Region, of which 33 are in the Toowoomba North Electorate.

As at 16 September 2022, under QuickStarts Qld, contracts have been awarded for the commencement of 928 new homes across Queensland. Of these homes, 31 are in the Darling Downs Region, with 18 of these in the Toowoomba North State Electorate. Of the 18 new homes commenced, five are currently under construction.

There are an additional 39 new homes currently progressing through various stages of documentation and design in the Toowoomba North Electorate. There are also a number of projects identified in the pipeline that are progressing through various stages of investigations, negotiation, and planning. Subject to satisfactory completion of site investigations, construction commencements and completions may increase in future years through an ongoing investment in the social housing construction pipeline.

The department is committed to delivering social housing options to Queenslanders in need sooner. However, similar to the broader market, the department is experiencing project delays due to the exceptionally difficult market conditions driven by material and labour supply shortages.

It is the aim of the department to have all social homes that are completed and available to tenant by 24 October 2024 tenanted by households on Social Housing Register. However, as allocations into social housing are based on the complexity of

the individual needs and circumstances of people on the housing register, and how these match to the features of an available property including location, size and amenity, the department is unable to confirm the number of social homes that will be tenanted by 24 October 2024.